

## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY AF/P:BARUSSELL:ADR  
APPROVED BY AF/P:RWHOLLIDAY  
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TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

XMT AMEMBASSY BANGUI

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:PFOR

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING FEB. 17, 1978

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE NOON  
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BRIEFING FEBRUARY 17, 1978:

Q: KEN, THERE IS A REPORT THAT DAVID AARON OF THE WHITE  
HOUSE AND OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY STAFF HAS GONE TO  
ETHIOPIA. CAN YOU TELL US WHY HE IS THERE, AND WHAT HE IS  
GOING TO DO?

A: AS YOU KNOW, JIM, WE DONOT HAVE AT PRESENT AN AMBASSA-  
DOR IN ADDIS ABABA. SINCE WE ARE GOING THROUGH A RATHER  
DELICATE PERIOD IN OUR LONG AND VALUED RELATIONSHIP WITH

ETHIOPIA, WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO RAISE THE LEVEL OF THE DIALOGUE BOTH TO PROVIDE A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN U.S. POLICY TO THE ETHIOPIAN PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT, PARTICULARLY OUR EFFORTS TO PROMOTE A PEACE SETTLEMENT IN THE ETHIOPIA-SOMALIA CONFLICT, AND IN ORDER TO GAIN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF ETHIOPIAN VIEWS.

THEREFORE, MR. DAVID AARON, WHO IS DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS, WAS ASKED BY THE PRESIDENT TO PAY A VISIT TO ADDIS ABABA, AND THE ETHIOPIAN

GOVERNMENT AGREED.

Q: HAS HE BEEN RECEIVED BY ANY MEMBERS OF THE JUNTA?

A: I DO NOT YET HAVE ANY REPORTING ON THE ACTUAL VISIT. I CAN SAY THAT HE IS ACCOMPANIED THERE BY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE WILLIAM HARROP OF THE AFRICAN BUREAU HERE, AND PAUL HENZE OF THE NSC STAFF.

Q: KEN, IS THERE ANY LINK BETWEEN THIS VISIT AND THE WARNING ISSUED BY THE PRESIDENT TO ETHIOPIA ABOUT ANY GOING INTO SOMALIA COULD ENDANGER WORLD PEACE?  
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A: OBVIOUSLY THE QUESTION OF THE SITUATION IN THE HORN AND ALL OF ITS RAMIFICATIONS WITH THE PRESENCE OF OUTSIDE POWERS IS SOMETHING THAT WOULD BE DISCUSSED.

I WOULDN'T PUT IT IN THE CONTEXT OF A WARNING OR WHATEVER. WHAT WE WANT TO DO IS TO RAISE THE LEVEL OF THE DIALOGUE, TO GIVE A NEW STIMULUS TO THE DIALOGUE.

Q: ARE THEY GOING ANYWHERE ELSE -- FOR EXAMPLE TO SOMALIA?

A: THEY ARE NOT GOING TO SOMALIA.

Q: HOW LONG DO YOU EXPECT THEM TO STAY THERE?

A: THEY WILL JUST BE THERE FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS. THE FOCUS IS ON ETHIOPIA. I CAN'T SAY THAT OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GROUP MIGHT NOT VISIT ELSEWHERE, BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE ANY DETAILS ON THAT, BUT I DO KNOW THAT AFTER THE ETHIOPIA VISIT, MR. AARON WILL BE COMING BACK.

Q: KEN, YOU SAID WHAT WE WANT TO DO IS RAISE THE LEVEL OF THE DIALOGUE, AND YOU ADDED ONE OTHER POINT ABOUT THE DIALOGUE. COULD YOU REPEAT THAT?

A: I SAID TO RAISE THE LEVEL OF THE DIALOGUE AND TO GIVE NEW SITMULUS TO THE DIALOGUE.

Q: WILL THE ENTIRE PARTY COME BACK? YOU SAY MR. AARON IS COMING BACK. WILL HARROP AND HENZE ALSO COME BACK?

A: THE PROBLEM WITH THAT IS I DON'T HAVE AN ABSOLUTE RESPONSE TO IT, BUT THE POINT I DO WANT TO MAKE IS THAT THE FOCUS IS ETHIOPIA. AARON IS GOING TO ETHIOPIA. THE ONLY HEDGING I WAS DOING THERE WAS REGARDING THE UNCLASSIFIED

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REST OF THE MEMBERS OF THE PARTY, BECAUSE I DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING DEFINITE.

Q: ARE WE SENDING ANY HIGH LEVEL MISSIONS TO SOMALIA, A SEPARATE MISSION, SINCE YOU SAY THIS ONE IS NOT GOING THERE?

A: NOT THAT I AM AWARE OF.

Q: BOTH THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE PRESIDENT MENTIONED THE WARNING ABOUT CROSSING INTERNATIONAL BORDERS INTO SOMALIA. WE DIDN'T GET AN ANSWER THE OTHER DAY. THE QUESTION WAS: IS INTRUSION BY AIR REGARDED BY THIS GOVERNMENT AS CROSSING A BORDER, SUCH A CROSSING THAT WOULD CAUSE THE UNITED STATES TO LOOK AGAIN AT ITS POLICY?

A: JIM, WE DID POST THAT, AND I CAN GET YOU A COPY. THE ESSENCE OF IT WAS THAT WE WOULD NOT SPECULATE ON FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS, BUT IT IS FULLER THAN THAT, AND I WILL SHOW YOU A COPY.

Q: LET ME PUT THE QUESTION ANOTHER WAY. THERE HAVE BEEN WELL-FOUNDED REPORTS OF ETHIOPIAN AIR ATTACKS IN SOMALIA. DLO YOU CONSIDER THOSE TO BE VIOLATIONS OF THE WARNINGS MADE BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE?

A: JIM, YOU REFER TO WARNINGS. I AM NOT CERTAIN WHAT YOU MEAN BY "WARNINGS", BUT THE POSTED ANSWER DOES ADDRESS THIS QUESTION OF PREVIOUS ATTACKS BY AIRCRAFT. AND BEYOND THAT, I WOULDN'T HAVE ANYTHING.

Q: IS THERE AN INTENTION TO APPOINT AN AMBASSADOR TO UNCLASSIFIED

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ADDIS?

A: I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT, OZZIE. RIGHT NOW, IT IS STILL AT THE CHARGE LEVEL.

Q: KEN, DID THEY FLY THERE ON A COMMERCIAL FLIGHT, OR WAS THERE A SPECIAL AIR FORCE PLANE?

A: ROY, I DON'T KNOW THAT.

Q: COULD YOU FIND THAT OUT?

A: YES, I WILL CHECK IT.

Q: KEN, IN CONNECTION WITH THIS BORDER MATTER, THE EGYPTIANS HAVE FLOWN AMMUNITION ACROSS KENYA AIR SPACE TO SOMALIA. AND THE KENYANS, AS YOU KNOW, HAVE BROUGHT

DOWN AN EGYPTIAN PLANE AND THERE HAS BEEN A FUSS ABOUT THAT. WOULD YOU CONSIDER THAT A VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW? HOW DO YOU REGARD THIS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE BUSINESS IN THE HORN?

A: JOE, I REALLY CAN'T GO INTO THAT INCIDENT. I THINK THE EGYPTIANS AND THE KENYANS HAVE WORKED IT OUT.

Q: ON THE PRINCIPLE OF OVERFLYING A COUNTRY DELIVERING AMMUNITION TO A THIRD COUNTRY, HOW DOES THE U.S. REGARD SUCH A DEVELOPMENT?

A: I DON'T REALLY HAVE DETAILS ON OUR POSITION REGARDING OVERFLIGHTS.

Q: KEN, THE SECRETARY SAID LAST WEEK THAT MORE CUBANS ARE PROBABLY ON THE WAY TO ETHIOPIA. CAN YOU GIVE US AN UP-DATE? THERE ARE REPORTS THAT AT LEAST 1,500 CUBANS UNCLASSIFIED

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ARE WAITING TO BE FLOWN IN. DO YOU HAVE ANY CONFIRMATION ON THIS?

A: ROY, I DON'T HAVE A DEFINITIVE ESTIMATE FOR YOU -- AND OF COURSE WE ALWAYS DO SPEAK IN TERMS OF ESTIMATES AND NOT SOLID FIGURES. BUT, AS OF RIGHT NOW, THE BEST FIGURE I CAN GIVE YOU FOR OVER-ALL CUBAN PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA IS 5,000 AND GROWING.

Q: FIVE THOUSAND.

Q: IS THAT UP FROM YOUR 3,000?

Q: LAST WEEK, WE HAD 3,000. TWO THOUSAND WERE IN COMBAT. DOES THIS MEAN THAT 2,000 WERE ADDED IN THE LAST WEEK, OR WHAT SPACE OF TIME DO YOU ESTIMATE?

A: ROY, I CAN'T GO INTO IT SPECIFICALLY BECAUSE OF THE

IMPRECISE NATURE OF MAKING THE ESTIMATES. BUT THE LAST TIME WE DID MAKE A STATEMENT ON THIS, AND HODDING WAS ASKED, HE SAID 3,000-PLUS. I DON'T HAVE THE EXACT DATE IN MIND. I WOULD HAVE TO GO BACK AND CHECK THAT FOR YOU.

Q: HOW MANY RUSSIAN ADVISERS DO YOU HAVE THERE, DO YOU NOW COUNT?

A: I DON'T HAVE ANY REVISION ON THAT?

Q: THERE ARE STILL 1,000.

A: I HAVE NO INFORMATION ON A CHANGE.

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Q: OF THESE 5,000, HOW MANY ARE IN COMBAT?

A: JIM, I DON'T HAVE A BREAKDOWN. I JUST HAVE THAT OVER-ALL FIGURE.

Q: YOU DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING ON WHETHER THERE ARE INTEGRATED CUBAN UNITS OF LARGE SIZE IN THE COUNTRY NOW?

A: OZZIE, I DON'T HAVE.

Q: DO YOU KNOW HOW THOSE CUBANS GOT THERE? WHERE THEY FLOWN IN OR LANDED BY SEA?

A: I DON'T HAVE SPECIFIC INFORMATION. I HAVE SEEN REPORTS REFERRING BOTH TO AIRCRAFT AND TO SHIPS, BUT I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING DEFINITIVE.

Q: DO THEY COME FROM CUBA OR FROM ANGOLA, OR WHERE?

A: I DON'T HAVE THAT, EITHER.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY EVIDENCE OF ANY EVACUATION OF CUBANS OR ANY CUBAN CASUALTIES BEING TAKEN OUT?

A: I DON'T HAVE, LARS. I DON'T KNOW.

Q: KEN, THE SECRETARY SAID JUST LAST FRIDAY THAT IT WAS -- HE USED THE FIGURE 3,000. SO, JUST TO BE CLEAR, YOU ARE SAYING THAT THE FIGURE FOR 3,000 A WEEK AGO AND NOW YOU ARE USING A FIGURE OF 5,000 AND GROWING THIS WEEK.

A: I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THE PACE OF THIS INCREASE. THERE DOES SEEM TO BE A RAPID INCREASE.

Q: KEN, THE SECRETARY ALSO SAID THAT OUT OF THIS 3,000 LAST WEEK, 2,000 WERE FIGHTING, WHICH IS A TWO-THIRDS

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RELATIONSHIP. IS THAT THE SAME WITH THE 5,000, THAT ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF THEM ARE ENGAGED IN COMBAT?

A: JUAN, I DON'T HAVE THE BREAKDOWN ON THAT FOR YOU. I JUST HAVE THIS OVER-ALL FIGURE.

Q: WHAT DO YOU BASE THE PHRASE "AND GROWING" ON?

A: OUR INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE NUMBER OF TROOPS DOES CONTINUE TO INCREASE.

Q: THAT IS LIKE SAYING YOU CAN TELL WHERE A MAN IS GOING BY LOOKING AT HIS FOOTPRINTS IN THE SNOW. DO YOU KNOW THAT THERE ARE SOME MORE PEOPLE ON ROUTE?

A: WE KNOW THAT THE NUMBER IS INCREASING, JIM?

Q: YOU HAVE SEEN THEM EMBARK.

A: I DO NOT ANTICIPATE THAT THAT IS A FINAL FIGURE.

Q: IN OTHER WORDS, YOU HAVE SEEN THEM EMBARK ON ONE END BUT NOT DISEMBARK ON THE OTHER END YET.

A: JIM, I DON'T HAVE SPECIFICS ON THAT, BUT I KNOW THAT NUMBER WILL GO UP.

Q: KEN, THE FACT THAT THE NUMBERS HAVE GROWN AGAIN, IS THIS A REASON FOR THE DISPATCH OF MR. AARON TO ADDIS?

A: ROY, I THINK WHAT I HAVE GIVEN YOU HERE, THIS GENERAL OVER-ALL STATEMENT, IS THE REASON FOR AARON GOING. I WOULD THINK THAT THE QUESTION, THE ROLE OF OTHER  
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COUNTRIES IN THE HORN OBVIOUSLY IS SOMETHING THAT WOULD BE DISCUSSED.

Q: ALSO, DO YOU HAVE ANY GENERAL COMMENT ON THIS INCREASE WHICH IS A FORTY PERCENT INCREASE FROM LAST WEEK?

A: NO COMMENT OTHER THAN WHAT WE HAVE SAID IN THE PAST,

THAT WE DO NOT THINK THAT IT IS HELPFUL TO HAVE THE PRESENCE OF OUTSIDE POWERS IN THIS CONFLICT, AND WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THIS MEDIATED, AND WE LOOK TO THE OAU TO BRING ABOUT THIS MEDIATION.

Q: KEN, DO YOU HAVE ANY NEW INFORMATION ON THE SOVIET AIRLIFT OF MATERIEL? IS IT GOING ON AT THE SAME PACE AS PREVIOUSLY? IS IT STILL OVERFLYING TURKEY AND IRAQ, AND STAGING THROUGH ADEN?

A: I HAVE NOTHING ON THAT.

Q: KEN, ARE THE CUBANS WHO ARE GOING TO ETHIOPIA RELATED TO THE INCREASE IN RUSSIAN TROOPS WHO HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS BEING IN CUBA? ARE THE RUSSIANS REPLACING CUBANS IN CUBA, AND IF THE CUBANS ARE GOING TO SEND MORE PERSONNEL TO ETHIOPIA, ARE THE RUSSIANS GOING TO SEND MORE PERSONNEL TO CUBA?

A: REID, I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING BEYOND WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID ABOUT THAT ON TELEVISION THE OTHER DAY, IN WHICH HE TALKED ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF SOVIET PILOTS IN CUBA. BUT I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING FURTHER.

Q: YOU DON'T KNOW WHETHER THERE IS ANY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THOSE PILOTS AND THE FACT THAT CUBANS ARE IN ETHIOPIA.

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A: I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT.

Q: DO YOU THINK YOU COULD CHECK INTO THAT?

A: NO, REID, I WON'T BE ABLE TO GO ANY FURTHER THAN WHAT THE SECRETARY HAS ALREADY SAID.

Q: HE SAID HE WASN'T PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT IT.

A: WHAT HE SAID WAS THAT THERE HAD BEEN THE PRESENCE OF SOVIET PILOTS NOTED IN CUBA IN THE PAST; THAT THEY WERE NOTED THERE NOW; THAT PERHAPS THERE HAD BEEN AN INCREASE,

BUT THAT WE DID NOT SEE ANY PATTERN WHICH WOULD INDICATE AN AGGRESSIVE INTENT ON THEIR PART.

Q: KEN, ARE THESE CUBANS, SO FAR AS YOU KNOW, STILL CONCENTRATING THEIR EFFORTS IN THE OGADEN, OR ARE THEY ALSO ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN COMBAT IN ERITREA?

A: ROY, I HAVE NOTHING NEW. WE HAVE NOTED IN THE PAST THAT WE BELIEVE THEM TO BE PRESENT IN BOTH AREAS, BUT I HAVE NOTHING NEW ON THAT.

ANYTHING MORE ON THE HORN?

Q: YES. THERE IS A REPORT FROM MOGADISHU CITING WESTERN

DIPLOMATIC SOURCES TO THE EFFECT THAT THERE HAVE BEEN RECENT INCREASED SHIPMENTS OF WEAPONS, SOME WESTERN, SOME OF SOVIET ORIGIN. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THE RESUPPLY OF SOMALI FORCES?

A: OZZIE, I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT PARTICULAR REPORT  
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WHICH WOULD CONFIRM IT. BUT I WOULD WANT TO SAY THAT IF THERE ARE ANY SUCH ARMS, THAT THESE ARMS EXIST -- I AM TALKING ABOUT AMERICAN ARMS NOW, BECAUSE I THINK THAT IS WHAT MOST SUITABLY WE SHOULD ADDRESS OURSELVES TO -- THEY WERE NOT PROVIDED BY US OR WITH OUR PERMISSION. OUR POLICY IS NOT TO PROVIDE ARMS TO EITHER SIDE.

Q: WHAT ABOUT OUR ACQUIESCENCE? YOU SAY "NOT WITH OUR PERMISSION." ARE WE TAKING ANY ACTIVE STEPS TO PREVENT SUCH WEAPONS BEING TRANSFERRED, AMERICAN WEAPONS BEING TRANSFERRED?

A: WE ARE OPPOSED TO A BUILD-UP OF ARMS IN THE HORN.

Q: THAT IS NOT ANSWERING THE QUESTION. THE QUESTION IS WHETHER WE ARE MAKING STRENUOUS EFFORTS TO TALK ANY GOVERNMENTS THAT MIGHT BE INCLINED TO TRANSFER AMERICAN WEAPONS OUT OF THEIR INCLINATION.

A: WE HAVE MADE CLEAR OUR POSITION. WE HAVE BEEN VERY CLEAR, NOT ONLY TO THE PRESS BUT TO THE GOVERNMENTS -- TO GOVERNMENTS.

Q: SPECIFICALLY, THE REPORT SAYS THAT TEN CARGO SHIPS HAVE COME FROM IRAN LOADED WITH VARIOUS ARMAMENTS, MANY OF THEM AMERICAN. HAS IRAN ASKED US OR NOTIFIED US OF ANY SHIPMENTS OF AMERICAN -- TRANSSHIPMENTS OF AMERICAN ARMS?

A: JIM, I COULD JUST REPEAT THAT WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION OF THESE REPORTS.

Q: IF THERE ARE SUCH AMERICAN ARMS GOING INTO SOMALIA, IT WOULD BE IN VIOLATION -- FROM IRAN -- IT WOULD BE IN VIOLATION OF OUR ARRANGEMENT WITH IRAN.

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A: IF AMERICAN ARMS ARE BEING SHIPPED BY ANY COUNTRY TO SOMALIA, IT WOULD BE IN VIOLATION OF AGREEMENTS THAT WE HAVE WITH THE COUNTRIES THAT ARE DOING THE SHIPPING.



Q: ARE WE ASKING THE IRANIANS ABOUT THIS?

A: OZZIE, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT TAKING UP THIS PARTICULAR REPORT. THIS IS A PRESS REPORT THAT DIDN'T GIVE VERY CLEAR SOURCES, SO I DON'T KNOW IF WE ARE ASKING ABOUT THIS PARTICULAR REPORT.

Q: TEN CARGO SHIPS ARE HARD TO MISTAKE.

A: THE DIRECT ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION IS, I DON'T KNOW IF WE ARE DISCUSSING THIS PARTICULAR REPORT WITH THE IRANIANS.

Q: ARE WE DOING ANYTHING FURTHER TO INDICATE OUR DISPLEASURE WITH CUBA IN VIEW OF THE INCREASING BUILD-UP? FOR EXAMPLE, A DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE ATTENDED A CUBAN SOCIAL FUNCTION RECENTLY, AND THE CUBANS ARE PLANNING ANOTHER BIG BASH IN HONOR OF THE BAY OF PIGS VICTORY. ARE STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS GOING TO BE ADVISED THAT PERHAPS IT WOULD NOT BE A GOOD IDEA TO BE PRESENT AT THESE FUNCTIONS?

A: I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THE ATTENDANCE BY AMERICAN OFFICIALS AT CUBAN FUNCTIONS, BUT THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT IS INDEED AWARE OF OUR POSITION ON THEIR ROLE IN THE HORN.

Q: I KNOW THEY ARE AWARE OF IT, BUT ARE WE EMPHASIZING THAT IN ANY CONCRETE WAY?

A: I THINK WE ARE MAKING IT CLEAR TO THE CUBANS AND WE HAVE UNCLASSIFIED

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MADE CLEAR-CUT STATEMENTS ON WHAT EFFECT THIS CAN HAVE ON -- DOES HAVE -- ON THE PROSPECTS FOR NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH CUBA.

Q: KEN, DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING NEW THIS WEEK ON THE ISRAELI INVOLVEMENT IN ETHIOPIA? THERE ARE REPORTS IN NEWS MAGAZINES THAT THERE ARE ACTUALLY MEN ON THE GROUND.

A: I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT. WE HAVE ADDRESSED THAT QUESTION IN THE PAST BUT I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING NEW ON IT. ANYTHING ELSE ON THE HORN BEFORE WE GO ON?

Q: YES, WHEN YOU PUT OUT ANYTHING, WILL YOU GIVE US A STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE ON OVERFLIGHTS, SO WE WILL HAVE IT CLEAR AS TO WHERE THE U.S. POLICY IS ON THINGS LIKE THAT?

A: ARE YOU ASKING ME FOR A U.S. POSITION ON OVERFLIGHTS?

Q: PLEASE.

A: COULD YOU BE A LITTLE MORE SPECIFIC THAN THAT, JOE?

A: YES. WOULD THE STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUE A STATEMENT ON THE U.S. POLICY REGARDING THE OVERFLIGHTS BY ONE COUNTRY FLYING THE MISSIONS TO A THIRD COUNTRY OVER THE AIR SPACE OF A COUNTRY THAT PROTESTS THIS?

A: WELL JOE, A CONDITION LIKE THAT, A SITUATION LIKE THAT CONCERNS THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED -- THE COUNTRY THAT HAS THE PLANE DOING THE OVERFLYING AND THE COUNTRY WHOSE TERRITORY IS OVERFLOWN -- AND IF A PLANE OVERFLEW OUR TERRITORY, THEN THAT WOULD BE SOMETHING THAT WE WOULD PROPERLY HAVE TO ADDRESS.

Q: ON ANOTHER SUBJECT: I SEE THE SECRETARY OF STATE IS TAKING PART IN A PRC MEETING AT -- I PRESUME THAT IS UNCLASSIFIED

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"PRESIDENTIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE" MEETING ON RHODESIA THIS AFTERNOON. WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?

A: OTHER THAN TO SAY IT IS ABOUT RHODESIA, I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING FURTHER. IT'S A POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE -- AND I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING FURTHER.

JIM, I DON'T REALLY THINK THAT WE ARE GOING TO BE ABLE TO GIVE YOU ANYTHING MORE THAN THAT, EXCEPT THAT IT'S ON RHODESIA. THERE ARE MEETINGS THAT TAKE PLACE FREQUENTLY AND RHODESIA IS OBVIOUSLY AN IMPORTANT TOPIC RIGHT NOW. THAT'S ALL I HAVE.

Q: ON THE SAME SUBJECT.

FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN IS REPORTED AS TELLING PARLIAMENT YESTERDAY THAT THE ACCORD ANNOUNCED IN SALISBURY IS A SIGNIFICANT STEP TOWARD MAJORITY RULE. DO YOU AGREE WITH THAT? DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT AGREE?

A: ROY, THE POSITION THAT WE HAVE TAKEN ON THIS HASN'T CHANGED FROM THE BASIC POINT THAT I WANTED TO GET ACROSS THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY, AND YESTERDAY, WHICH IS THAT WE STILL DO NOT HAVE THE FULL PARTICULARS ON WHAT HAS BEEN AGREED ON -- AND TO NOTE THAT THIS SEEMS TO BE EVOLVING -- THEY'RE IN THE PROCESS OF AGREEING -- AND UNTIL WE DO HAVE FULL PARTICULARS, WE WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO GIVE AN OVERALL REACTION AND JUDGMENT.

Q: WELL, WHAT IS THE PRC MEETING ABOUT, IF THEY DON'T HAVE THE PARTICULARS?

A: WELL WE COULD CERTAINLY DISCUSS RHODESIA AND WITHOUT UNCLASSIFIED

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HAVING THE DETAILS.

Q: WELL IF THEY CAN DISCUSS IT, CAN YOU NOT TELL US ON THAT SAME BASIS, WHAT YOU -- WHETHER YOU THINK THAT THIS IS GOING TO LEAD TO ANYTHING?

A: "WHETHER THIS IS GOING TO LEAD TO ANYTHING?"

Q: THE SETTLEMENT, OR THE AGREEMENT, WHICH WAS ANNOUNCED THIS WEEK.

A: JIM, NO, I CAN'T REALLY GO FURTHER ON THAT PARTICULAR POINT THAN WHAT I JUST SAID TO ROY.

Q: THE PATRIOTIC FRONT IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE AGREEMENT SHOULD BE REJECTED AND THAT THE FIGHTING SHOULD CONTINUE AND INDEED, BE INTENSIFIED.

DO YOU HAVE ANY REACTION TO THAT?

A: NO. WE STILL WANT TO SEE THE FULL INFORMATION ON THE SETTLEMENT, OR THE AGREEMENT.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION AS TO PLANS TO RESUME THE CONTACTS OF MALTA WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADERS?

A: NO, I DO NOT HAVE. I BELIEVE WE INDICATED AT THE TIME THAT WE WOULD BE WILLING TO TALK FURTHER WITH THEM--; BUT I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING SPECIFIC ON MEETINGS WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT.

Q: KEN, PERHAPS THIS HAS BEEN COVERED -- BUT I WONDER HOW THE DEPARTMENT VIEWS THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE MUGABEAN AND NKOMO GROUPS WHO ARE ENGAGED IN TERRORIST ACTIVITIES AND THE PLO WHICH IS PURSUING ITS OBJECTIVE IN A SIMILAR WAY.

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IN THE CASE OF THE PLO, WE SHUN THEM AND WON'T HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THEM. IN THE CASE OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, APPARENTLY, WE ARE BACKING THEM. HOW DOES THAT SQUARE?

A: WELL, REID, I DON'T REALLY WANT TO GET INTO COMPARISONS WITH DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD -- BUT WE ARE NOT FAVORING ANY OF THE PARTIES AT THE EXPENSE OF AN EQUITABLE PROCESS -- AND I THINK THAT IS THE POINT.

BUT AS FAR AS A COMPARISON BETWEEN THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND THE PLO -- I COULDN'T DO IT.

Q: YOU COULDN'T MAKE A COMPARISON?

A: I WOULD NOT MAKE A COMPARISON.

Q: AREN'T THEY BOTH -- DON'T THEY HAVE SOMETHING IN COMMON IN THAT THEY BOTH PRACTICE TERRORISM?

A: I DON'T WANT TO GET INTO MAKING COMPARISONS.

Q: WELL, YOU DON'T KNOW? OR YOU JUST DON'T WANT TO SAY?

A: I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY TIMES I HAVE TO SAY IT, REID, BUT I AM NOT GOING TO GET INTO COMPARISONS.

Q: YOU DON'T WANT TO COMMENT ON --

A: I AM NOT COMMENTING ON --

Q: KEN, WAS AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN HERE THIS MORNING? I GUESS HE WAS, WASN'T HE? ACCORDING TO THIS --  
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A: I BELIEVE SO, YES.

Q: DID SECRETARY VANCE BRIEF HIM ON THE ETHIOPIAN MISSION, ON MR. AARON -- OR WERE OTHER SUBJECTS DISCUSSED THAT YOU DIDN'T --

A: I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THE DOBRYNIN MEETING.

Q: COULD YOU FIND OUT WHETHER THAT WAS DISCUSSED -- I JUST ASSUME IT WAS, BUT CAN YOU JUST GET A CONFIRMATION ON THAT?

A: USUALLY, ROY, WE DON'T GO INTO THE SPECIFICS OF WHAT WAS DISCUSSED.

Q: THERE WAS AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT TODAY THAT THE UNITED STATES IS FORBIDDING THE EXPORTS OF -- (I HAVEN'T GOT THE THING IN FRONT OF ME) BUT IT INCLUDED UNPUBLISHED TECHNICAL INFORMATION AND SOME OTHER THINGS, TO SOUTH AFRICA.

DOES THIS REPRESENT ANY ESCALATION OR INTENSIFICATION OF THE U.S. POLICY TOWARDS SOUTH AFRICA -- THE U.S. BOYCOTT POLICY TOWARDS SOUTH AFRICA?

A: BOB, LET ME GIVE YOU WHAT I HAVE ON IT.

THERE WAS A NEW SET OF REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE LICENSE OF EXPORTS TO SOUTH AFRICA WHICH WAS DEPOSITED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, FOR PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER.

THIS REVISED SET OF REGULATIONS IMPOSES AN EMBARGO ON EXPORTS AND REEXPORTS OF U.S. ORIGIN COMMODITIES AND UNPUBLISHED TECHNICAL DATA TO, OR FOR USE BY OR FOR MILITARY OR POLICE ENTITIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA AND  
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NAMIBIA.

THESE REVISIONS ARE ISSUED IN ORDER TO FURTHER U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY AND TO SUPPORT U.S. IMPLEMENTATION OF U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS.

FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE REGULATIONS, YOU SHOULD CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, OFFICE OF EXPORT ADMINISTRATION.

Q: BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE HAVE IMPOSED AN EMBARGO OF THIS SORT, IS IT NOT?

A: AS FAR AS -- BOB, I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANYTHING MORE ON IT THAN THIS. ON PART OF THE HISTORY OF IT I JUST DON'T HAVE ANY INFORMATION.

Q: DO YOU KNOW -- AS I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU ARE SAYING, IT IS APPLIED STRICTLY TO COMMODITIES AND DATA FOR POLICE AND MILITARY USE?

A: YES.

AND OUR POLICY HAS BEEN NOT TO SELL, TO PROVIDE MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO THE MILITARY OR THE POLICE.

Q: HOW DOES THIS CHANGE THAT, IF IT DOES?

A: I DON'T KNOW THAT IT DOES CHANGE IT. IT MAY BE WE ARE JUST NOW GOING INTO THE SPECIFIC REGULATIONS.

BUT I REALLY WILL HAVE TO REFER YOU TO THE OFFICE OF EXPORT ADMINISTRATION.  
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Q: KEN, IS THERE A REVIEW UNDER WAY ON THAT -- ON THE GENERAL TRADE WITH SOUTH AFRICA?

A: THE OVERALL ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP WITH SOUTH AFRICA IS STILL UNDER REVIEW. VANCE

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FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 042972 SENT ACTION ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC  
POSTS LONDON PARIS BONN ALGIERS BAGHDAD CAIRO JIDDA RABAT SANA  
TEHRAN TEL AVIV TRIPOLI USUN NEW YORK FEB 17.

QUOTE UNCLAS STATE 042972

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:PFOR

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING FEB. 17, 1978

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE NOON  
BRIEFING FEBRUARY 17, 1978:

Q: KEN, THERE IS A REPORT THAT DAVID AARON OF THE WHITE  
HOUSE AND OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY STAFF HAS GONE TO  
ETHIOPIA. CAN YOU TELL US WHY HE IS THERE, AND WHAT HE IS  
GOING TO DO?

A: AS YOU KNOW, JIM, WE DONOT HAVE AT PRESENT AN AMBASSA-  
DOR IN ADDIS ABABA. SINCE WE ARE GOING THROUGH A RATHER  
DELICATE PERIOD IN OUR LONG AND VALUED RELATIONSHIP WITH  
ETHIOPIA, WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO RAISE THE  
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LEVEL OF THE DIALOGUE BOTH TO PROVIDE A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY  
TO EXPLAIN U.S. POLICY TO THE ETHIOPIAN PROVISIONAL MILITARY  
GOVERNMENT, PARTICULARLY OUR EFFORTS TO PROMOTE A PEACE  
SETTLEMENT IN THE ETHIOPIA-SOMALIA CONFLICT, AND IN ORDER  
TO GAIN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF ETHIOPIAN VIEWS.

THEREFORE, MR. DAVID AARON, WHO IS DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE  
PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS, WAS ASKED BY THE  
PRESIDENT TO PAY A VISIT TO ADDIS ABABA, AND THE ETHIOPIAN

GOVERNMENT AGREED.

Q: HAS HE BEEN RECEIVED BY ANY MEMBERS OF THE JUNTA?

A: I DO NOT YET HAVE ANY REPORTING ON THE ACTUAL VISIT. I CAN SAY THAT HE IS ACCOMPANIED THERE BY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE WILLIAM HARROP OF THE AFRICAN BUREAU HERE, AND PAUL HENZE OF THE NSC STAFF.

Q: KEN, IS THERE ANY LINK BETWEEN THIS VISIT AND THE WARNING ISSUED BY THE PRESIDENT TO ETHIOPIA ABOUT ANY GOING INTO SOMALIA COULD ENDANGER WORLD PEACE?

A: OBVIOUSLY THE QUESTION OF THE SITUATION IN THE HORN AND ALL OF ITS RAMIFICATIONS WITH THE PRESENCE OF OUTSIDE POWERS IS SOMETHING THAT WOULD BE DISCUSSED.

I WOULDN'T PUT IT IN THE CONTEXT OF A WARNING OR WHATEVER. WHAT WE WANT TO DO IS TO RAISE THE LEVEL OF THE DIALOGUE, TO GIVE A NEW STIMULUS TO THE DIALOGUE.

Q: ARE THEY GOING ANYWHERE ELSE -- FOR EXAMPLE TO SOMALIA?

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A: THEY ARE NOT GOING TO SOMALIA.

Q: HOW LONG DO YOU EXPECT THEM TO STAY THERE?

A: THEY WILL JUST BE THERE FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS. THE FOCUS IS ON ETHIOPIA. I CAN'T SAY THAT OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GROUP MIGHT NOT VISIT ELSEWHERE, BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE ANY DETAILS ON THAT, BUT I DO KNOW THAT AFTER THE ETHIOPIA VISIT, MR. AARON WILL BE COMING BACK.

Q: KEN, YOU SAID WHAT WE WANT TO DO IS RAISE THE LEVEL OF THE DIALOGUE, AND YOU ADDED ONE OTHER POINT ABOUT THE DIALOGUE. COULD YOU REPEAT THAT?

A: I SAID TO RAISE THE LEVEL OF THE DIALOGUE AND TO GIVE NEW SITMULUS TO THE DIALOGUE.

Q: WILL THE ENTIRE PARTY COME BACK? YOU SAY MR. AARON IS COMING BACK. WILL HARROP AND HENZE ALSO COME BACK?

A: THE PROBLEM WITH THAT IS I DON'T HAVE AN ABSOLUTE RESPONSE TO IT, BUT THE POINT I DO WANT TO MAKE IS THAT THE FOCUS IS ETHIOPIA. AARON IS GOING TO ETHIOPIA. THE ONLY HEDGING I WAS DOING THERE WAS REGARDING THE REST OF THE MEMBERS OF THE PARTY, BECAUSE I DIDN'T HAVE

ANYTHING DEFINITE.

Q: ARE WE SENDING ANY HIGH LEVEL MISSIONS TO SOMALIA, A SEPARATE MISSION, SINCE YOU SAY THIS ONE IS NOT GOING THERE?

A: NOT THAT I AM AWARE OF.

Q: BOTH THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE PRESIDENT MENTION-  
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ED THE WARNING ABOUT CROSSING INTERNATIONAL BORDERS INTO SOMALIA. WE DIDN'T GET AN ANSWER THE OTHER DAY. THE QUESTION WAS: IS INTRUSION BY AIR REGARDED BY THIS GOVERNMENT AS CROSSING A BORDER, SUCH A CROSSING THAT WOULD CAUSE THE UNITED STATES TO LOOK AGAIN AT ITS POLICY?

A: JIM, WE DID POST THAT, AND I CAN GET YOU A COPY. THE ESSENCE OF IT WAS THAT WE WOULD NOT SPECULATE ON FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS, BUT IT IS FULLER THAN THAT, AND I WILL SHOW YOU A COPY.

Q: LET ME PUT THE QUESTION ANOTHER WAY. THERE HAVE BEEN WELL-FOUNDED REPORTS OF ETHIOPIAN AIR ATTACKS IN SOMALIA. DLO YOU CONSIDER THOSE TO BE VIOLATIONS OF THE WARNINGS MADE BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE?

A: JIM, YOU REFER TO WARNINGS. I AM NOT CERTAIN WHAT YOU MEAN BY "WARNINGS", BUT THE POSTED ANSWER DOES ADDRESS THIS QUESTION OF PREVIOUS ATTACKS BY AIRCRAFT. AND BEYOND THAT, I WOULDN'T HAVE ANYTHING.

Q: IS THERE AN INTENTION TO APPOINT AN AMBASSADOR TO ADDIS?

A: I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT, OZZIE. RIGHT NOW, IT IS STILL AT THE CHARGE LEVEL.

Q: KEN, DID THEY FLY THERE ON A COMMERCIAL FLIGHT, OR WAS THERE A SPECIAL AIR FORCE PLANE?

A: ROY, I DON'T KNOW THAT.

Q: COULD YOU FIND THAT OUT?  
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A: YES, I WILL CHECK IT.

Q: KEN, IN CONNECTION WITH THIS BORDER MATTER, THE EGYPTIANS HAVE FLOWN AMMUNITION ACROSS KENYA AIR SPACE TO SOMALIA. AND THE KENYANS, AS YOU KNOW, HAVE BROUGHT



DOWN AN EGYPTIAN PLANE AND THERE HAS BEEN A FUSS ABOUT THAT. WOULD YOU CONSIDER THAT A VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW? HOW DO YOU REGARD THIS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE BUSINESS IN THE HORN?

A: JOE, I REALLY CAN'T GO INTO THAT INCIDENT. I THINK THE EGYPTIANS AND THE KENYANS HAVE WORKED IT OUT.

Q: ON THE PRINCIPLE OF OVERFLYING A COUNTRY DELIVERING AMMUNITION TO A THIRD COUNTRY, HOW DOES THE U.S. REGARD SUCH A DEVELOPMENT?

A: I DON'T REALLY HAVE DETAILS ON OUR POSITION REGARDING OVERFLIGHTS.

Q: KEN, THE SECRETARY SAID LAST WEEK THAT MORE CUBANS ARE PROBABLY ON THE WAY TO ETHIOPIA. CAN YOU GIVE US AN UP-DATE? THERE ARE REPORTS THAT AT LEAST 1,500 CUBANS ARE WAITING TO BE FLOWN IN. DO YOU HAVE ANY CONFIRMATION ON THIS?

A: ROY, I DON'T HAVE A DEFINITIVE ESTIMATE FOR YOU -- AND OF COURSE WE ALWAYS DO SPEAK IN TERMS OF ESTIMATES AND NOT SOLID FIGURES. BUT, AS OF RIGHT NOW, THE BEST FIGURE I CAN GIVE YOU FOR OVER-ALL CUBAN PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA IS 5,000 AND GROWING.

Q: FIVE THOUSAND.

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Q: IS THAT UP FROM YOUR 3,000?

Q: LAST WEEK, WE HAD 3,000. TWO THOUSAND WERE IN COMBAT. DOES THIS MEAN THAT 2,000 WERE ADDED IN THE LAST WEEK, OR WHAT SPACE OF TIME DO YOU ESTIMATE?

A: ROY, I CAN'T GO INTO IT SPECIFICALLY BECAUSE OF THE IMPRECISE NATURE OF MAKING THE ESTIMATES. BUT THE LAST TIME WE DID MAKE A STATEMENT ON THIS, AND HODDING WAS ASKED, HE SAID 3,000-PLUS. I DON'T HAVE THE EXACT DATE IN MIND. I WOULD HAVE TO GO BACK AND CHECK THAT FOR YOU.

Q: HOW MANY RUSSIAN ADVISERS DO YOU HAVE THERE, DO YOU NOW COUNT?

A: I DON'T HAVE ANY REVISION ON THAT?

Q: THERE ARE STILL 1,000.

A: I HAVE NO INFORMATION ON A CHANGE.

Q: OF THESE 5,000, HOW MANY ARE IN COMBAT?

A: JIM, I DON'T HAVE A BREAKDOWN. I JUST HAVE THAT OVER-ALL FIGURE.

Q: YOU DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING ON WHETHER THERE ARE INTEGRATED CUBAN UNITS OF LARGE SIZE IN THE COUNTRY NOW?

A: OZZIE, I DON'T HAVE.

Q: DO YOU KNOW HOW THOSE CUBANS GOT THERE? WHERE THEY UNCLASSIFIED

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FLOWN IN OR LANDED BY SEA?

A: I DON'T HAVE SPECIFIC INFORMATION. I HAVE SEEN REPORTS REFERRING BOTH TO AIRCRAFT AND TO SHIPS, BUT I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING DEFINITIVE.

Q: DO THEY COME FROM CUBA OR FROM ANGOLA, OR WHERE?

A: I DON'T HAVE THAT, EITHER.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY EVIDENCE OF ANY EVACUATION OF CUBANS OR ANY CUBAN CASUALTIES BEING TAKEN OUT?

A: I DON'T HAVE, LARS. I DON'T KNOW.

Q: KEN, THE SECRETARY SAID JUST LAST FRIDAY THAT IT WAS -- HE USED THE FIGURE 3,000. SO, JUST TO BE CLEAR, YOU ARE SAYING THAT THE FIGURE FOR 3,000 A WEEK AGO AND NOW YOU ARE USING A FIGURE OF 5,000 AND GROWING THIS WEEK.

A: I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THE PACE OF THIS INCREASE. THERE DOES SEEM TO BE A RAPID INCREASE.

Q: KEN, THE SECRETARY ALSO SAID THAT OUT OF THIS 3,000 LAST WEEK, 2,000 WERE FIGHTING, WHICH IS A TWO-THIRDS RELATIONSHIP. IS THAT THE SAME WITH THE 5,000, THAT ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF THEM ARE ENGAGED IN COMBAT?

A: JUAN, I DON'T HAVE THE BREAKDOWN ON THAT FOR YOU. I JUST HAVE THIS OVER-ALL FIGURE.

Q: WHAT DO YOU BASE THE PHRASE "AND GROWING" ON?

A: OUR INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE NUMBER OF TROOPS DOES CONTINUE TO INCREASE.

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Q: THAT IS LIKE SAYING YOU CAN TELL WHERE A MAN IS GOING BY LOOKING AT HIS FOOTPRINTS IN THE SNOW. DO YOU KNOW THAT THERE ARE SOME MORE PEOPLE ON ROUTE?

A: WE KNOW THAT THE NUMBER IS INCREASING, JIM?

Q: YOU HAVE SEEN THEM EMBARK.

A: I DO NOT ANTICIPATE THAT THAT IS A FINAL FIGURE.

Q: IN OTHER WORDS, YOU HAVE SEEN THEM EMBARK ON ONE END BUT NOT DISEMBARK ON THE OTHER END YET.

A: JIM, I DON'T HAVE SPECIFICS ON THAT, BUT I KNOW THAT NUMBER WILL GO UP.

Q: KEN, THE FACT THAT THE NUMBERS HAVE GROWN AGAIN, IS THIS A REASON FOR THE DISPATCH OF MR. AARON TO ADDIS?

A: ROY, I THINK WHAT I HAVE GIVEN YOU HERE, THIS GENERAL OVER-ALL STATEMENT, IS THE REASON FOR AARON GOING. I WOULD THINK THAT THE QUESTION, THE ROLE OF OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE HORN OBVIOUSLY IS SOMETHING THAT WOULD BE DISCUSSED.

Q: ALSO, DO YOU HAVE ANY GENERAL COMMENT ON THIS INCREASE WHICH IS A FORTY PERCENT INCREASE FROM LAST WEEK?

A: NO COMMENT OTHER THAN WHAT WE HAVE SAID IN THE PAST,

THAT WE DO NOT THINK THAT IT IS HELPFUL TO HAVE THE PRESENCE OF OUTSIDE POWERS IN THIS CONFLICT, AND WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THIS MEDIATED, AND WE LOOK TO THE OAU UNCLASSIFIED

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TO BRING ABOUT THIS MEDIATION.

Q: KEN, DO YOU HAVE ANY NEW INFORMATION ON THE SOVIET AIRLIFT OF MATERIEL? IS IT GOING ON AT THE SAME PACE AS PREVIOUSLY? IS IT STILL OVERFLYING TURKEY AND IRAQ, AND STAGING THROUGH ADEN?

A: I HAVE NOTHING ON THAT.

Q: KEN, ARE THE CUBANS WHO ARE GOING TO ETHIOPIA RELATED TO THE INCREASE IN RUSSIAN TROOPS WHO HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS BEING IN CUBA? ARE THE RUSSIANS REPLACING CUBANS IN CUBA, AND IF THE CUBANS ARE GOING TO SEND MORE PERSONNEL TO ETHIOPIA, ARE THE RUSSIANS GOING TO SEND MORE

PERSONNEL TO CUBA?

A: REID, I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING BEYOND WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID ABOUT THAT ON TELEVISION THE OTHER DAY, IN WHICH HE TALKED ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF SOVIET PILOTS IN CUBA. BUT I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING FURTHER.

Q: YOU DON'T KNOW WHETHER THERE IS ANY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THOSE PILOTS AND THE FACT THAT CUBANS ARE IN ETHIOPIA.

A: I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT.

Q: DO YOU THINK YOU COULD CHECK INTO THAT?

A: NO, REID, I WON'T BE ABLE TO GO ANY FURTHER THAN WHAT THE SECRETARY HAS ALREADY SAID.

Q: HE SAID HE WASN'T PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT IT.

A: WHAT HE SAID WAS THAT THERE HAD BEEN THE PRESENCE OF SOVIET PILOTS NOTED IN CUBA IN THE PAST; THAT THEY WERE UNCLASSIFIED

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NOTED THERE NOW; THAT PERHAPS THERE HAD BEEN AN INCREASE,

BUT THAT WE DID NOT SEE ANY PATTERN WHICH WOULD INDICATE AN AGGRESSIVE INTENT ON THEIR PART.

Q: KEN, ARE THESE CUBANS, SO FAR AS YOU KNOW, STILL CONCENTRATING THEIR EFFORTS IN THE OGADEN, OR ARE THEY ALSO ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN COMBAT IN ERITREA?

A: ROY, I HAVE NOTHING NEW. WE HAVE NOTED IN THE PAST THAT WE BELIEVE THEM TO BE PRESENT IN BOTH AREAS, BUT I HAVE NOTHING NEW ON THAT.

ANYTHING MORE ON THE HORN?

Q: YES. THERE IS A REPORT FROM MOGADISHU CITING WESTERN DIPLOMATIC SOURCES TO THE EFFECT THAT THERE HAVE BEEN RECENT INCREASED SHIPMENTS OF WEAPONS, SOME WESTERN, SOME OF SOVIET ORIGIN. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THE RESUPPLY OF SOMALI FORCES?

A: OZZIE, I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT PARTICULAR REPORT WHICH WOULD CONFIRM IT. BUT I WOULD WANT TO SAY THAT IF THERE ARE ANY SUCH ARMS, THAT THESE ARMS EXIST -- I AM TALKING ABOUT AMERICAN ARMS NOW, BECAUSE I THINK THAT IS WHAT MOST SUITABLY WE SHOULD ADDRESS OURSELVES TO -- THEY WERE NOT PROVIDED BY US OR WITH OUR PERMISSION. OUR POLICY IS NOT TO PROVIDE ARMS TO EITHER SIDE.

Q: WHAT ABOUT OUR ACQUIESCENCE? YOU SAY "NOT WITH OUR PERMISSION." ARE WE TAKING ANY ACTIVE STEPS TO PREVENT SUCH WEAPONS BEING TRANSFERRED, AMERICAN WEAPONS BEING TRANSFERRED?

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A: WE ARE OPPOSED TO A BUILD-UP OF ARMS IN THE HORN.

Q: THAT IS NOT ANSWERING THE QUESTION. THE QUESTION IS WHETHER WE ARE MAKING STRENUOUS EFFORTS TO TALK ANY GOVERNMENTS THAT MIGHT BE INCLINED TO TRANSFER AMERICAN WEAPONS OUT OF THEIR INCLINATION.

A: WE HAVE MADE CLEAR OUR POSITION. WE HAVE BEEN VERY CLEAR, NOT ONLY TO THE PRESS BUT TO THE GOVERNMENTS -- TO GOVERNMENTS.

Q: SPECIFICALLY, THE REPORT SAYS THAT TEN CARGO SHIPS HAVE COME FROM IRAN LOADED WITH VARIOUS ARMAMENTS, MANY OF THEM AMERICAN. HAS IRAN ASKED US OR NOTIFIED US OF ANY SHIPMENTS OF AMERICAN -- TRANSSHIPMENTS OF AMERICAN ARMS?

A: JIM, I COULD JUST REPEAT THAT WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION OF THESE REPORTS.

Q: IF THERE ARE SUCH AMERICAN ARMS GOING INTO SOMALIA, IT WOULD BE IN VIOLATION -- FROM IRAN -- IT WOULD BE IN VIOLATION OF OUR ARRANGEMENT WITH IRAN.

A: IF AMERICAN ARMS ARE BEING SHIPPED BY ANY COUNTRY TO SOMALIA, IT WOULD BE IN VIOLATION OF AGREEMENTS THAT WE HAVE WITH THE COUNTRIES THAT ARE DOING THE SHIPPING.

Q: ARE WE ASKING THE IRANIANS ABOUT THIS?

A: OZZIE, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT TAKING UP THIS PARTICULAR REPORT. THIS IS A PRESS REPORT THAT DIDN'T GIVE VERY CLEAR SOURCES, SO I DON'T KNOW IF WE ARE ASKING ABOUT THIS PARTICULAR REPORT.

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Q: TEN CARGO SHIPS ARE HARD TO MISTAKE.

A: THE DIRECT ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION IS, I DON'T KNOW IF WE ARE DISCUSSING THIS PARTICULAR REPORT WITH THE IRANIANS.

Q: ARE WE DOING ANYTHING FURTHER TO INDICATE OUR DISPLEAS-

URE WITH CUBA IN VIEW OF THE INCREASING BUILD-UP? FOR  
EXAMPLE, A DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE ATTENDED A  
CUBAN SOCIAL FUNCTION RECENTLY, AND THE CUBANS ARE PLANNING  
ANOTHER BIG BASH IN HONOR OF THE BAY OF PIGS VICTORY. ARE  
STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS  
GOING TO BE ADVISED THAT PERHAPS IT WOULD NOT BE A GOOD  
IDEA TO BE PRESENT AT THESE FUNCTIONS?

A: I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THE ATTENDANCE BY AMERICAN  
OFFICIALS AT CUBAN FUNCTIONS, BUT THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT IS  
INDEED AWARE OF OUR POSITION ON THEIR ROLE IN THE HORN.

Q: I KNOW THEY ARE AWARE OF IT, BUT ARE WE EMPHASIZING THAT  
IN ANY CONCRETE WAY?

A: I THINK WE ARE MAKING IT CLEAR TO THE CUBANS AND WE HAVE  
MADE CLEAR-CUT STATEMENTS ON WHAT EFFECT THIS CAN HAVE ON  
-- DOES HAVE -- ON THE PROSPECTS FOR NORMALIZATION OF RELA-  
TIONS WITH CUBA.

Q: KEN, DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING NEW THIS WEEK ON THE ISRAELI  
INVOLVEMENT IN ETHIOPIA? THERE ARE REPORTS IN NEWS MAGA-  
ZINES THAT THERE ARE ACTUALLY MEN ON THE GROUND.

A: I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT. WE HAVE ADDRESSED THAT  
QUESTION IN THE PAST BUT I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING NEW ON IT.  
ANYTHING ELSE ON THE HORN BEFORE WE GO ON?  
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Q: YES, WHEN YOU PUT OUT ANYTHING, WILL YOU GIVE US A  
STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE ON OVERFLIGHTS, SO WE WILL HAVE IT  
CLEAR AS TO WHERE THE U.S. POLICY IS ON THINGS LIKE THAT?

A: ARE YOU ASKING ME FOR A U.S. POSITION ON OVERFLIGHTS?

Q: PLEASE.

A: COULD YOU BE A LITTLE MORE SPECIFIC THAN THAT, JOE?

A: YES. WOULD THE STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUE A STATEMENT ON THE  
U.S. POLICY REGARDING THE OVERFLIGHTS BY ONE COUNTRY FLYING  
THE MISSIONS TO A THIRD COUNTRY OVER THE AIR SPACE OF A  
COUNTRY THAT PROTESTS THIS?

A: WELL JOE, A CONDITION LIKE THAT, A SITUATION LIKE THAT  
CONCERNS THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED -- THE COUNTRY THAT HAS THE  
PLANE DOING THE OVERFLYING AND THE COUNTRY WHOSE TERRITORY  
IS OVERFLOWN -- AND IF A PLANE OVERFLEW OUR TERRITORY,  
THEN THAT WOULD BE SOMETHING THAT WE WOULD PROPERLY HAVE  
TO ADDRESS.

Q: ON ANOTHER SUBJECT: I SEE THE SECRETARY OF STATE IS

TAKING PART IN A PRC MEETING AT -- I PRESUME THAT IS  
"PRESIDENTIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE" MEETING ON RHODESIA THIS  
AFTERNOON. WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?

A: OTHER THAN TO SAY IT IS ABOUT RHODESIA, I DON'T HAVE ANY-  
THING FURTHER. IT'S A POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE -- AND I  
DON'T HAVE ANYTHING FURTHER.

JIM, I DON'T REALLY THINK THAT WE ARE GOING TO BE ABLE TO  
GIVE YOU ANYTHING MORE THAN THAT, EXCEPT THAT IT'S ON  
RHODESIA. THERE ARE MEETINGS THAT TAKE PLACE FREQUENTLY  
AND RHODESIA IS OBVIOUSLY AN IMPORTANT TOPIC RIGHT NOW.  
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THAT'S ALL I HAVE.

Q: ON THE SAME SUBJECT.

FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN IS REPORTED AS TELLING PARLIAMENT  
YESTERDAY THAT THE ACCORD ANNOUNCED IN SALISBURY IS A SIG-  
NIFICANT STEP TOWARD MAJORITY RULE. DO YOU AGREE WITH  
THAT? DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT AGREE?

A: ROY, THE POSITION THAT WE HAVE TAKEN ON THIS HASN'T  
CHANGED FROM THE BASIC POINT THAT I WANTED TO GET ACROSS  
THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY, AND YESTERDAY, WHICH IS THAT WE  
STILL DO NOT HAVE THE FULL PARTICULARS ON WHAT HAS BEEN  
AGREED ON -- AND TO NOTE THAT THIS SEEMS TO BE EVOLVING --  
THEY'RE IN THE PROCESS OF AGREEING -- AND UNTIL WE DO HAVE  
FULL PARTICULARS, WE WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO GIVE AN OVERALL  
REACTION AND JUDGMENT.

Q: WELL, WHAT IS THE PRC MEETING ABOUT, IF THEY DON'T HAVE  
THE PARTICULARS?

A: WELL WE COULD CERTAINLY DISCUSS RHODESIA AND WITHOUT  
HAVING THE DETAILS.

Q: WELL IF THEY CAN DISCUSS IT, CAN YOU NOT TELL US ON THAT  
SAME BASIS, WHAT YOU -- WHETHER YOU THINK THAT THIS IS  
GOING TO LEAD TO ANYTHING?

A: "WHETHER THIS IS GOING TO LEAD TO ANYTHING?"

Q: THE SETTLEMENT, OR THE AGREEMENT, WHICH WAS ANNOUNCED  
THIS WEEK.

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A: JIM, NO, I CAN'T REALLY GO FURTHER ON THAT PARTICULAR

POINT THAN WHAT I JUST SAID TO ROY.

Q: THE PATRIOTIC FRONT IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE AGREEMENT SHOULD BE REJECTED AND THAT THE FIGHTING SHOULD CONTINUE AND INDEED, BE INTENSIFIED.

DO YOU HAVE ANY REACTION TO THAT?

A: NO. WE STILL WANT TO SEE THE FULL INFORMATION ON THE SETTLEMENT, OR THE AGREEMENT.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION AS TO PLANS TO RESUME THE CONTACTS OF MALTA WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADERS?

A: NO, I DO NOT HAVE. I BELIEVE WE INDICATED AT THE TIME THAT WE WOULD BE WILLING TO TALK FURTHER WITH THEM--; BUT I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING SPECIFIC ON MEETINGS WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT.

Q: KEN, PERHAPS THIS HAS BEEN COVERED -- BUT I WONDER HOW THE DEPARTMENT VIEWS THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE MUGABEAN AND NKOMO GROUPS WHO ARE ENGAGED IN TERRORIST ACTIVITIES AND THE PLO WHICH IS PURSUING ITS OBJECTIVE IN A SIMILAR WAY.

IN THE CASE OF THE PLO, WE SHUN THEM AND WON'T HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THEM. IN THE CASE OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, APPARENTLY, WE ARE BACKING THEM. HOW DOES THAT SQUARE?

A: WELL, REID, I DON'T REALLY WANT TO GET INTO COMPARISONS WITH DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD -- BUT WE ARE NOT FAVORING ANY OF THE PARTIES AT THE EXPENSE OF AN EQUITABLE PROCESS -- AND I THINK THAT IS THE POINT.

BUT AS FAR AS A COMPARISON BETWEEN THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND UNCLASSIFIED

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THE PLO -- I COULDN'T DO IT.

Q: YOU COULDN'T MAKE A COMPARISON?

A: I WOULD NOT MAKE A COMPARISON.

Q: AREN'T THEY BOTH -- DON'T THEY HAVE SOMETHING IN COMMON IN THAT THEY BOTH PRACTICE TERRORISM?

A: I DON'T WANT TO GET INTO MAKING COMPARISONS.

Q: WELL, YOU DON'T KNOW? OR YOU JUST DON'T WANT TO SAY?

A: I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY TIMES I HAVE TO SAY IT, REID, BUT I AM NOT GOING TO GET INTO COMPARISONS.



Q: YOU DON'T WANT TO COMMENT ON --

A: I AM NOT COMMENTING ON --

Q: KEN, WAS AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN HERE THIS MORNING? I GUESS HE WAS, WASN'T HE? ACCORDING TO THIS --

A: I BELIEVE SO, YES.

Q: DID SECRETARY VANCE BRIEF HIM ON THE ETHIOPIAN MISSION, ON MR. AARON -- OR WERE OTHER SUBJECTS DISCUSSED THAT YOU DIDN'T --

A: I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THE DOBRYNIN MEETING.

Q: COULD YOU FIND OUT WHETHER THAT WAS DISCUSSED -- I JUST ASSUME IT WAS, BUT CAN YOU JUST GET A CONFIRMATION ON THAT?  
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A: USUALLY, ROY, WE DON'T GO INTO THE SPECIFICS OF WHAT WAS DISCUSSED.

Q: THERE WAS AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT TODAY THAT THE UNITED STATES IS FORBIDDING THE EXPORTS OF -- (I HAVEN'T GOT THE THING IN FRONT OF ME) BUT IT INCLUDED UNPUBLISHED TECHNICAL INFORMATION AND SOME OTHER THINGS, TO SOUTH AFRICA.

DOES THIS REPRESENT ANY ESCALATION OR INTENSIFICATION OF THE U.S. POLICY TOWARDS SOUTH AFRICA -- THE U.S. BOYCOTT POLICY TOWARDS SOUTH AFRICA?

A: BOB, LET ME GIVE YOU WHAT I HAVE ON IT.

THERE WAS A NEW SET OF REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE LICENSE OF EXPORTS TO SOUTH AFRICA WHICH WAS DEPOSITED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, FOR PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER.

THIS REVISED SET OF REGULATIONS IMPOSES AN EMBARGO ON EXPORTS AND REEXPORTS OF U.S. ORIGIN COMMODITIES AND UNPUBLISHED TECHNICAL DATA TO, OR FOR USE BY OR FOR MILITARY OR POLICE ENTITIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA.

THESE REVISIONS ARE ISSUED IN ORDER TO FURTHER U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY AND TO SUPPORT U.S. IMPLEMENTATION OF U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS.

FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE REGULATIONS, YOU SHOULD CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT OF

COMMERCE, OFFICE OF EXPORT ADMINISTRATION.

Q: BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE HAVE IMPOSED AN EMBARGO  
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OF THIS SORT, IS IT NOT?

A: AS FAR AS -- BOB, I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANYTHING MORE ON  
IT THAN THIS. ON PART OF THE HISTORY OF IT I JUST DON'T  
HAVE ANY INFORMATION.

Q: DO YOU KNOW -- AS I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU ARE SAYING, IT  
IS APPLIED STRICTLY TO COMMODITIES AND DATA FOR POLICE AND  
MILITARY USE?

A: YES.

AND OUR POLICY HAS BEEN NOT TO SELL, TO PROVIDE MILITARY  
EQUIPMENT TO THE MILITARY OR THE POLICE.

Q: HOW DOES THIS CHANGE THAT, IF IT DOES?

A: I DON'T KNOW THAT IT DOES CHANGE IT. IT MAY BE WE ARE  
JUST NOW GOING INTO THE SPECIFIC REGULATIONS.

BUT I REALLY WILL HAVE TO REFER YOU TO THE OFFICE OF EXPORT  
ADMINISTRATION.

Q: KEN, IS THERE A REVIEW UNDER WAY ON THAT -- ON THE  
GENERAL TRADE WITH SOUTH AFRICA?

A: THE OVERALL ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP WITH SOUTH AFRICA IS  
STILL UNDER REVIEW. VANCE UNQUOTE VANCE

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DRAFTED BY: ARA/CCA:DEHENDERSON:DPB

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FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 042972 ACTION ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS, LONDON, PARIS, BONN, ALGIERS, BAGHDAD, CAIRO, JIDDA, RABAT, SANA, TEHRAN, TEL AVIV, TRIPOLI, USUN NEW YORK AND ROME FEB 17.

QUOTE: UNCLAS STATE 042972

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:PFOR

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING FEB. 17, 1978

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE NOON BRIEFING FEBRUARY 17, 1978:

Q: KEN, THERE IS A REPORT THAT DAVID AARON OF THE WHITE HOUSE AND OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY STAFF HAS GONE TO ETHIOPIA. CAN YOU TELL US WHY HE IS THERE, AND WHAT HE IS GOING TO DO?

A: AS YOU KNOW, JIM, WE DONOT HAVE AT PRESENT AN AMBASSADOR IN ADDIS ABABA. SINCE WE ARE GOING THROUGH A RATHER UNCLASSIFIED

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DELICATE PERIOD IN OUR LONG AND VALUED RELATIONSHIP WITH ETHIOPIA, WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO RAISE THE LEVEL OF THE DIALOGUE BOTH TO PROVIDE A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN U.S. POLICY TO THE ETHIOPIAN PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT, PARTICULARLY OUR EFFORTS TO PROMOTE A PEACE SETTLEMENT IN THE ETHIOPIA-SOMALIA CONFLICT, AND IN ORDER TO GAIN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF ETHIOPIAN VIEWS.

THEREFORE, MR. DAVID AARON, WHO IS DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS, WAS ASKED BY THE PRESIDENT TO PAY A VISIT TO ADDIS ABABA, AND THE ETHIOPIAN

GOVERNMENT AGREED.

Q: HAS HE BEEN RECEIVED BY ANY MEMBERS OF THE JUNTA?

A: I DO NOT YET HAVE ANY REPORTING ON THE ACTUAL VISIT. I CAN SAY THAT HE IS ACCOMPANIED THERE BY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE WILLIAM HARROP OF THE AFRICAN BUREAU HERE, AND PAUL HENZE OF THE NSC STAFF.

Q: KEN, IS THERE ANY LINK BETWEEN THIS VISIT AND THE WARNING ISSUED BY THE PRESIDENT TO ETHIOPIA ABOUT ANY GOING INTO SOMALIA COULD ENDANGER WORLD PEACE?

A: OBVIOUSLY THE QUESTION OF THE SITUATION IN THE HORN AND ALL OF ITS RAMIFICATIONS WITH THE PRESENCE OF OUTSIDE

POWERS IS SOMETHING THAT WOULD BE DISCUSSED.

I WOULDN'T PUT IT IN THE CONTEXT OF A WARNING OR WHATEVER.  
WHAT WE WANT TO DO IS TO RAISE THE LEVEL OF THE DIALOGUE,  
TO GIVE A NEW STIMULUS TO THE DIALOGUE.

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Q: ARE THEY GOING ANYWHERE ELSE -- FOR EXAMPLE TO SOMALIA?

A: THEY ARE NOT GOING TO SOMALIA.

Q: HOW LONG DO YOU EXPECT THEM TO STAY THERE?

A: THEY WILL JUST BE THERE FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS. THE  
FOCUS IS ON ETHIOPIA. I CAN'T SAY THAT OTHER MEMBERS  
OF THE GROUP MIGHT NOT VISIT ELSEWHERE, BECAUSE I DON'T  
HAVE ANY DETAILS ON THAT, BUT I DO KNOW THAT AFTER THE  
ETHIOPIA VISIT, MR. AARON WILL BE COMING BACK.

Q: KEN, YOU SAID WHAT WE WANT TO DO IS RAISE THE LEVEL  
OF THE DIALOGUE, AND YOU ADDED ONE OTHER POINT ABOUT  
THE DIALOGUE. COULD YOU REPEAT THAT?

A: I SAID TO RAISE THE LEVEL OF THE DIALOGUE AND TO  
GIVE NEW STIMULUS TO THE DIALOGUE.

Q: WILL THE ENTIRE PARTY COME BACK? YOU SAY MR. AARON  
IS COMING BACK. WILL HARROP AND HENZE ALSO COME  
BACK?

A: THE PROBLEM WITH THAT IS I DON'T HAVE AN ABSOLUTE  
RESPONSE TO IT, BUT THE POINT I DO WANT TO MAKE IS THAT  
THE FOCUS IS ETHIOPIA. AARON IS GOING TO ETHIOPIA.  
THE ONLY HEDGING I WAS DOING THERE WAS REGARDING THE  
REST OF THE MEMBERS OF THE PARTY, BECAUSE I DIDN'T HAVE

ANYTHING DEFINITE.

Q: ARE WE SENDING ANY HIGH LEVEL MISSIONS TO SOMALIA,  
A SEPARATE MISSION, SINCE YOU SAY THIS ONE IS NOT GOING  
THERE?

A: NOT THAT I AM AWARE OF.  
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Q: BOTH THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE PRESIDENT MENTION-  
ED THE WARNING ABOUT CROSSING INTERNATIONAL BORDERS INTO  
SOMALIA. WE DIDN'T GET AN ANSWER THE OTHER DAY. THE  
QUESTION WAS: IS INTRUSION BY AIR REGARDED BY THIS

GOVERNMENT AS CROSSING A BORDER, SUCH A CROSSING THAT WOULD CAUSE THE UNITED STATES TO LOOK AGAIN AT ITS POLICY?

A: JIM, WE DID POST THAT, AND I CAN GET YOU A COPY. THE ESSENCE OF IT WAS THAT WE WOULD NOT SPECULATE ON FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS, BUT IT IS FULLER THAN THAT, AND I WILL SHOW YOU A COPY.

Q: LET ME PUT THE QUESTION ANOTHER WAY. THERE HAVE BEEN WELL-FOUNDED REPORTS OF ETHIOPIAN AIR ATTACKS IN SOMALIA. DO YOU CONSIDER THOSE TO BE VIOLATIONS OF THE WARNINGS MADE BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE?

A: JIM, YOU REFER TO WARNINGS. I AM NOT CERTAIN WHAT YOU MEAN BY "WARNINGS", BUT THE POSTED ANSWER DOES ADDRESS THIS QUESTION OF PREVIOUS ATTACKS BY AIRCRAFT. AND BEYOND THAT, I WOULDN'T HAVE ANYTHING.

Q: IS THERE AN INTENTION TO APPOINT AN AMBASSADOR TO ADDIS?

A: I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT, OZZIE. RIGHT NOW, IT IS STILL AT THE CHARGE LEVEL.

Q: KEN, DID THEY FLY THERE ON A COMMERCIAL FLIGHT, OR WAS THERE A SPECIAL AIR FORCE PLANE?

A: ROY, I DON'T KNOW THAT.  
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Q: COULD YOU FIND THAT OUT?

A: YES, I WILL CHECK IT.

Q: KEN, IN CONNECTION WITH THIS BORDER MATTER, THE EGYPTIANS HAVE FLOWN AMMUNITION ACROSS KENYA AIR SPACE TO SOMALIA. AND THE KENYANS, AS YOU KNOW, HAVE BROUGHT

DOWN AN EGYPTIAN PLANE AND THERE HAS BEEN A FUSS ABOUT THAT. WOULD YOU CONSIDER THAT A VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW? HOW DO YOU REGARD THIS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE BUSINESS IN THE HORN?

A: JOE, I REALLY CAN'T GO INTO THAT INCIDENT. I THINK THE EGYPTIANS AND THE KENYANS HAVE WORKED IT OUT.

Q: ON THE PRINCIPLE OF OVERFLYING A COUNTRY DELIVERING AMMUNITION TO A THIRD COUNTRY, HOW DOES THE U.S. REGARD SUCH A DEVELOPMENT?

A: I DON'T REALLY HAVE DETAILS ON OUR POSITION REGARDING OVERFLIGHTS.

Q: KEN, THE SECRETARY SAID LAST WEEK THAT MORE CUBANS ARE PROBABLY ON THE WAY TO ETHIOPIA. CAN YOU GIVE US AN UP-DATE? THERE ARE REPORTS THAT AT LEAST 1,500 CUBANS ARE WAITING TO BE FLOWN IN. DO YOU HAVE ANY CONFIRMATION ON THIS?

A: ROY, I DON'T HAVE A DEFINITIVE ESTIMATE FOR YOU -- AND OF COURSE WE ALWAYS DO SPEAK IN TERMS OF ESTIMATES AND NOT SOLID FIGURES. BUT, AS OF RIGHT NOW, THE BEST FIGURE I CAN GIVE YOU FOR OVER-ALL CUBAN PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA IS 5,000 AND GROWING.

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Q: FIVE THOUSAND.

Q: IS THAT UP FROM YOUR 3,000?

Q: LAST WEEK, WE HAD 3,000. TWO THOUSAND WERE IN COMBAT. DOES THIS MEAN THAT 2,000 WERE ADDED IN THE LAST WEEK, OR WHAT SPACE OF TIME DO YOU ESTIMATE?

A: ROY, I CAN'T GO INTO IT SPECIFICALLY BECAUSE OF THE IMPRECISE NATURE OF MAKING THE ESTIMATES. BUT THE LAST TIME WE DID MAKE A STATEMENT ON THIS, AND HODDING WAS ASKED, HE SAID 3,000-PLUS. I DON'T HAVE THE EXACT DATE IN MIND. I WOULD HAVE TO GO BACK AND CHECK THAT FOR YOU.

Q: HOW MANY RUSSIAN ADVISERS DO YOU HAVE THERE, DO YOU NOW COUNT?

A: I DON'T HAVE ANY REVISION ON THAT?

Q: THERE ARE STILL 1,000.

A: I HAVE NO INFORMATION ON A CHANGE.

Q: OF THESE 5,000, HOW MANY ARE IN COMBAT?

A: JIM, I DON'T HAVE A BREAKDOWN. I JUST HAVE THAT OVER-ALL FIGURE.

Q: YOU DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING ON WHETHER THERE ARE INTEGRATED CUBAN UNITS OF LARGE SIZE IN THE COUNTRY NOW?

A: OZZIE, I DON'T HAVE.

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Q: DO YOU KNOW HOW THOSE CUBANS GOT THERE? WHERE THEY FLOWN IN OR LANDED BY SEA?

A: I DON'T HAVE SPECIFIC INFORMATION. I HAVE SEEN REPORTS REFERRING BOTH TO AIRCRAFT AND TO SHIPS, BUT I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING DEFINITIVE.

Q: DO THEY COME FROM CUBA OR FROM ANGOLA, OR WHERE?

A: I DON'T HAVE THAT, EITHER.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY EVIDENCE OF ANY EVACUATION OF CUBANS OR ANY CUBAN CASUALTIES BEING TAKEN OUT?

A: I DON'T HAVE, LARS. I DON'T KNOW.

Q: KEN, THE SECRETARY SAID JUST LAST FRIDAY THAT IT WAS -- HE USED THE FIGURE 3,000. SO, JUST TO BE CLEAR, YOU ARE SAYING THAT THE FIGURE FOR 3,000 A WEEK AGO AND NOW YOU ARE USING A FIGURE OF 5,000 AND GROWING THIS WEEK.

A: I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THE PACE OF THIS INCREASE. THERE DOES SEEM TO BE A RAPID INCREASE.

Q: KEN, THE SECRETARY ALSO SAID THAT OUT OF THIS 3,000 LAST WEEK, 2,000 WERE FIGHTING, WHICH IS A TWO-THIRDS RELATIONSHIP. IS THAT THE SAME WITH THE 5,000, THAT ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF THEM ARE ENGAGED IN COMBAT?

A: JUAN, I DON'T HAVE THE BREAKDOWN ON THAT FOR YOU. I JUST HAVE THIS OVER-ALL FIGURE.

Q: WHAT DO YOU BASE THE PHRASE "AND GROWING" ON?

A: OUR INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE NUMBER OF TROOPS DOES UNCLASSIFIED

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CONTINUE TO INCREASE.

Q: THAT IS LIKE SAYING YOU CAN TELL WHERE A MAN IS GOING BY LOOKING AT HIS FOOTPRINTS IN THE SNOW. DO YOU KNOW THAT THERE ARE SOME MORE PEOPLE ON ROUTE?

A: WE KNOW THAT THE NUMBER IS INCREASING, JIM?

Q: YOU HAVE SEEN THEM EMBARK.

A: I DO NOT ANTICIPATE THAT THAT IS A FINAL FIGURE.

Q: IN OTHER WORDS, YOU HAVE SEEN THEM EMBARK ON ONE END BUT NOT DISEMBARK ON THE OTHER END YET.

A: JIM, I DON'T HAVE SPECIFICS ON THAT, BUT I KNOW THAT NUMBER WILL GO UP.

Q: KEN, THE FACT THAT THE NUMBERS HAVE GROWN AGAIN, IS THIS A REASON FOR THE DISPATCH OF MR. AARON TO ADDIS?

A: ROY, I THINK WHAT I HAVE GIVEN YOU HERE, THIS GENERAL OVER-ALL STATEMENT, IS THE REASON FOR AARON GOING. I WOULD THINK THAT THE QUESTION, THE ROLE OF OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE HORN OBVIOUSLY IS SOMETHING THAT WOULD BE DISCUSSED.

Q: ALSO, DO YOU HAVE ANY GENERAL COMMENT ON THIS INCREASE WHICH IS A FORTY PERCENT INCREASE FROM LAST WEEK?

A: NO COMMENT OTHER THAN WHAT WE HAVE SAID IN THE PAST, THAT WE DO NOT THINK THAT IT IS HELPFUL TO HAVE THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PRESENCE OF OUTSIDE POWERS IN THIS CONFLICT, AND WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THIS MEDIATED, AND WE LOOK TO THE OAU TO BRING ABOUT THIS MEDIATION.

Q: KEN, DO YOU HAVE ANY NEW INFORMATION ON THE SOVIET AIRLIFT OF MATERIEL? IS IT GOING ON AT THE SAME PACE AS PREVIOUSLY? IS IT STILL OVERFLYING TURKEY AND IRAQ, AND STAGING THROUGH ADEN?

A: I HAVE NOTHING ON THAT.

Q: KEN, ARE THE CUBANS WHO ARE GOING TO ETHIOPIA RELATED TO THE INCREASE IN RUSSIAN TROOPS WHO HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS BEING IN CUBA? ARE THE RUSSIANS REPLACING CUBANS IN CUBA, AND IF THE CUBANS ARE GOING TO SEND MORE PERSONNEL TO ETHIOPIA, ARE THE RUSSIANS GOING TO SEND MORE PERSONNEL TO CUBA?

A: REID, I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING BEYOND WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID ABOUT THAT ON TELEVISION THE OTHER DAY, IN WHICH HE TALKED ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF SOVIET PILOTS IN CUBA. BUT I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING FURTHER.

Q: YOU DON'T KNOW WHETHER THERE IS ANY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THOSE PILOTS AND THE FACT THAT CUBANS ARE IN ETHIOPIA.

A: I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT.

Q: DO YOU THINK YOU COULD CHECK INTO THAT?

A: NO, REID, I WON'T BE ABLE TO GO ANY FURTHER THAN



WHAT THE SECRETARY HAS ALREADY SAID.

Q: HE SAID HE WASN'T PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT IT.

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A: WHAT HE SAID WAS THAT THERE HAD BEEN THE PRESENCE OF SOVIET PILOTS NOTED IN CUBA IN THE PAST; THAT THEY WERE NOTED THERE NOW; THAT PERHAPS THERE HAD BEEN AN INCREASE,

BUT THAT WE DID NOT SEE ANY PATTERN WHICH WOULD INDICATE AN AGGRESSIVE INTENT ON THEIR PART.

Q: KEN, ARE THESE CUBANS, SO FAR AS YOU KNOW, STILL CONCENTRATING THEIR EFFORTS IN THE OGADEN, OR ARE THEY ALSO ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN COMBAT IN ERITREA?

A: ROY, I HAVE NOTHING NEW. WE HAVE NOTED IN THE PAST THAT WE BELIEVE THEM TO BE PRESENT IN BOTH AREAS, BUT I HAVE NOTHING NEW ON THAT.

ANYTHING MORE ON THE HORN?

Q: YES. THERE IS A REPORT FROM MOGADISHU CITING WESTERN DIPLOMATIC SOURCES TO THE EFFECT THAT THERE HAVE BEEN RECENT INCREASED SHIPMENTS OF WEAPONS, SOME WESTERN, SOME OF SOVIET ORIGIN. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THE RESUPPLY OF SOMALI FORCES?

A: OZZIE, I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT PARTICULAR REPORT WHICH WOULD CONFIRM IT. BUT I WOULD WANT TO SAY THAT IF THERE ARE ANY SUCH ARMS, THAT THESE ARMS EXIST -- I AM TALKING ABOUT AMERICAN ARMS NOW, BECAUSE I THINK THAT IS WHAT MOST SUITABLY WE SHOULD ADDRESS OURSELVES TO -- THEY WERE NOT PROVIDED BY US OR WITH OUR PERMISSION. OUR POLICY IS NOT TO PROVIDE ARMS TO EITHER SIDE.

Q: WHAT ABOUT OUR ACQUIESCENCE? YOU SAY "NOT WITH OUR PERMISSION." ARE WE TAKING ANY ACTIVE STEPS TO PREVENT

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SUCH WEAPONS BEING TRANSFERRED, AMERICAN WEAPONS BEING TRANSFERRED?

A: WE ARE OPPOSED TO A BUILD-UP OF ARMS IN THE HORN.

Q: THAT IS NOT ANSWERING THE QUESTION. THE QUESTION IS WHETHER WE ARE MAKING STRENUOUS EFFORTS TO TALK ANY GOVERNMENTS THAT MIGHT BE INCLINED TO TRANSFER AMERICAN WEAPONS OUT OF THEIR INCLINATION.

A: WE HAVE MADE CLEAR OUR POSITION. WE HAVE BEEN VERY CLEAR, NOT ONLY TO THE PRESS BUT TO THE GOVERNMENTS -- TO GOVERNMENTS.

Q: SPECIFICALLY, THE REPORT SAYS THAT TEN CARGO SHIPS HAVE COME FROM IRAN LOADED WITH VARIOUS ARMAMENTS, MANY OF THEM AMERICAN. HAS IRAN ASKED US OR NOTIFIED US OF ANY SHIPMENTS OF AMERICAN -- TRANSSHIPMENTS OF AMERICAN ARMS?

A: JIM, I COULD JUST REPEAT THAT WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION OF THESE REPORTS.

Q: IF THERE ARE SUCH AMERICAN ARMS GOING INTO SOMALIA, IT WOULD BE IN VIOLATION -- FROM IRAN -- IT WOULD BE IN VIOLATION OF OUR ARRANGEMENT WITH IRAN.

A: IF AMERICAN ARMS ARE BEING SHIPPED BY ANY COUNTRY TO SOMALIA, IT WOULD BE IN VIOLATION OF AGREEMENTS THAT WE HAVE WITH THE COUNTRIES THAT ARE DOING THE SHIPPING.

Q: ARE WE ASKING THE IRANIANS ABOUT THIS?

A: OZZIE, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT TAKING UP THIS PARTICULAR REPORT. THIS IS A PRESS REPORT THAT DIDN'T GIVE VERY CLEAR SOURCES, SO I DON'T KNOW IF WE ARE ASKING ABOUT THIS UNCLASSIFIED

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PARTICULAR REPORT.

Q: TEN CARGO SHIPS ARE HARD TO MISTAKE.

A: THE DIRECT ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION IS, I DON'T KNOW IF WE ARE DISCUSSING THIS PARTICULAR REPORT WITH THE IRANIANS.

Q: ARE WE DOING ANYTHING FURTHER TO INDICATE OUR DISPLEASURE WITH CUBA IN VIEW OF THE INCREASING BUILD-UP? FOR EXAMPLE, A DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE ATTENDED A CUBAN SOCIAL FUNCTION RECENTLY, AND THE CUBANS ARE PLANNING ANOTHER BIG BASH IN HONOR OF THE BAY OF PIGS VICTORY. ARE STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS GOING TO BE ADVISED THAT PERHAPS IT WOULD NOT BE A GOOD IDEA TO BE PRESENT AT THESE FUNCTIONS?

A: I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THE ATTENDANCE BY AMERICAN OFFICIALS AT CUBAN FUNCTIONS, BUT THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT IS INDEED AWARE OF OUR POSITION ON THEIR ROLE IN THE HORN.

Q: I KNOW THEY ARE AWARE OF IT, BUT ARE WE EMPHASIZING THAT IN ANY CONCRETE WAY?

A: I THINK WE ARE MAKING IT CLEAR TO THE CUBANS AND WE HAVE MADE CLEAR-CUT STATEMENTS ON WHAT EFFECT THIS CAN HAVE ON -- DOES HAVE -- ON THE PROSPECTS FOR NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH CUBA.

Q: KEN, DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING NEW THIS WEEK ON THE ISRAELI INVOLVEMENT IN ETHIOPIA? THERE ARE REPORTS IN NEWS MAGAZINES THAT THERE ARE ACTUALLY MEN ON THE GROUND.

A: I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT. WE HAVE ADDRESSED THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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QUESTION IN THE PAST BUT I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING NEW ON IT. ANYTHING ELSE ON THE HORN BEFORE WE GO ON?

Q: YES, WHEN YOU PUT OUT ANYTHING, WILL YOU GIVE US A STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE ON OVERFLIGHTS, SO WE WILL HAVE IT CLEAR AS TO WHERE THE U.S. POLICY IS ON THINGS LIKE THAT?

A: ARE YOU ASKING ME FOR A U.S. POSITION ON OVERFLIGHTS?

Q: PLEASE.

A: COULD YOU BE A LITTLE MORE SPECIFIC THAN THAT, JOE?

A: YES. WOULD THE STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUE A STATEMENT ON THE U.S. POLICY REGARDING THE OVERFLIGHTS BY ONE COUNTRY FLYING THE MISSIONS TO A THIRD COUNTRY OVER THE AIR SPACE OF A COUNTRY THAT PROTESTS THIS?

A: WELL JOE, A CONDITION LIKE THAT, A SITUATION LIKE THAT CONCERNS THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED -- THE COUNTRY THAT HAS THE PLANE DOING THE OVERFLYING AND THE COUNTRY WHOSE TERRITORY IS OVERFLOWN -- AND IF A PLANE OVERFLEW OUR TERRITORY, THEN THAT WOULD BE SOMETHING THAT WE WOULD PROPERLY HAVE TO ADDRESS.

Q: ON ANOTHER SUBJECT: I SEE THE SECRETARY OF STATE IS TAKING PART IN A PRC MEETING AT -- I PRESUME THAT IS "PRESIDENTIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE" MEETING ON RHODESIA THIS AFTERNOON. WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?

A: OTHER THAN TO SAY IT IS ABOUT RHODESIA, I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING FURTHER. IT'S A POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE -- AND I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING FURTHER.

JIM, I DON'T REALLY THINK THAT WE ARE GOING TO BE ABLE TO GIVE YOU ANYTHING MORE THAN THAT, EXCEPT THAT IT'S ON UNCLASSIFIED

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RHODESIA. THERE ARE MEETINGS THAT TAKE PLACE FREQUENTLY AND RHODESIA IS OBVIOUSLY AN IMPORTANT TOPIC RIGHT NOW. THAT'S ALL I HAVE.

Q: ON THE SAME SUBJECT.

FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN IS REPORTED AS TELLING PARLIAMENT YESTERDAY THAT THE ACCORD ANNOUNCED IN SALISBURY IS A SIGNIFICANT STEP TOWARD MAJORITY RULE. DO YOU AGREE WITH THAT? DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT AGREE?

A: ROY, THE POSITION THAT WE HAVE TAKEN ON THIS HASN'T CHANGED FROM THE BASIC POINT THAT I WANTED TO GET ACROSS THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY, AND YESTERDAY, WHICH IS THAT WE STILL DO NOT HAVE THE FULL PARTICULARS ON WHAT HAS BEEN AGREED ON -- AND TO NOTE THAT THIS SEEMS TO BE EVOLVING -- THEY'RE IN THE PROCESS OF AGREEING -- AND UNTIL WE DO HAVE FULL PARTICULARS, WE WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO GIVE AN OVERALL REACTION AND JUDGMENT.

Q: WELL, WHAT IS THE PRC MEETING ABOUT, IF THEY DON'T HAVE THE PARTICULARS?

A: WELL WE COULD CERTAINLY DISCUSS RHODESIA AND WITHOUT HAVING THE DETAILS.

Q: WELL IF THEY CAN DISCUSS IT, CAN YOU NOT TELL US ON THAT SAME BASIS, WHAT YOU -- WHETHER YOU THINK THAT THIS IS GOING TO LEAD TO ANYTHING?

A: "WHETHER THIS IS GOING TO LEAD TO ANYTHING?"

Q: THE SETTLEMENT, OR THE AGREEMENT, WHICH WAS ANNOUNCED UNCLASSIFIED

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THIS WEEK.

A: JIM, NO, I CAN'T REALLY GO FURTHER ON THAT PARTICULAR POINT THAN WHAT I JUST SAID TO ROY.

Q: THE PATRIOTIC FRONT IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE AGREEMENT SHOULD BE REJECTED AND THAT THE FIGHTING SHOULD CONTINUE AND INDEED, BE INTENSIFIED.

DO YOU HAVE ANY REACTION TO THAT?

A: NO. WE STILL WANT TO SEE THE FULL INFORMATION ON THE SETTLEMENT, OR THE AGREEMENT.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION AS TO PLANS TO RESUME THE CONTACTS OF MALTA WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADERS?

A: NO, I DO NOT HAVE. I BELIEVE WE INDICATED AT THE TIME THAT WE WOULD BE WILLING TO TALK FURTHER WITH THEM--; BUT I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING SPECIFIC ON MEETINGS WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT.

Q: KEN, PERHAPS THIS HAS BEEN COVERED -- BUT I WONDER HOW THE DEPARTMENT VIEWS THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE MUGABEAN AND NKOMO GROUPS WHO ARE ENGAGED IN TERRORIST ACTIVITIES AND THE PLO WHICH IS PURSUING ITS OBJECTIVE IN A SIMILAR WAY.

IN THE CASE OF THE PLO, WE SHUN THEM AND WON'T HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THEM. IN THE CASE OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, APPARENTLY, WE ARE BACKING THEM. HOW DOES THAT SQUARE?

A: WELL, REID, I DON'T REALLY WANT TO GET INTO COMPARISONS WITH DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD -- BUT WE ARE NOT FAVORING ANY OF THE PARTIES AT THE EXPENSE OF AN EQUITABLE PROCESS -- AND I THINK THAT IS THE POINT.  
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BUT AS FAR AS A COMPARISON BETWEEN THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND THE PLO -- I COULDN'T DO IT.

Q: YOU COULDN'T MAKE A COMPARISON?

A: I WOULD NOT MAKE A COMPARISON.

Q: AREN'T THEY BOTH -- DON'T THEY HAVE SOMETHING IN COMMON IN THAT THEY BOTH PRACTICE TERRORISM?

A: I DON'T WANT TO GET INTO MAKING COMPARISONS.

Q: WELL, YOU DON'T KNOW? OR YOU JUST DON'T WANT TO SAY?

A: I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY TIMES I HAVE TO SAY IT, REID, BUT I AM NOT GOING TO GET INTO COMPARISONS.

Q: YOU DON'T WANT TO COMMENT ON --

A: I AM NOT COMMENTING ON --

Q: KEN, WAS AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN HERE THIS MORNING? I GUESS HE WAS, WASN'T HE? ACCORDING TO THIS --

A: I BELIEVE SO, YES.

Q: DID SECRETARY VANCE BRIEF HIM ON THE ETHIOPIAN MISSION, ON MR. AARON -- OR WERE OTHER SUBJECTS DISCUSSED THAT YOU DIDN'T --

A: I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THE DOBRYNIN MEETING.

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Q: COULD YOU FIND OUT WHETHER THAT WAS DISCUSSED -- I JUST ASSUME IT WAS, BUT CAN YOU JUST GET A CONFIRMATION ON THAT?

A: USUALLY, ROY, WE DON'T GO INTO THE SPECIFICS OF WHAT WAS DISCUSSED.

Q: THERE WAS AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT TODAY THAT THE UNITED STATES IS FORBIDDING THE EXPORTS OF -- (I HAVEN'T GOT THE THING IN FRONT OF ME) BUT IT INCLUDED UNPUBLISHED TECHNICAL INFORMATION AND SOME OTHER THINGS, TO SOUTH AFRICA.

DOES THIS REPRESENT ANY ESCALATION OR INTENSIFICATION OF THE U.S. POLICY TOWARDS SOUTH AFRICA -- THE U.S. BOYCOTT POLICY TOWARDS SOUTH AFRICA?

A: BOB, LET ME GIVE YOU WHAT I HAVE ON IT.

THERE WAS A NEW SET OF REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE LICENSE OF EXPORTS TO SOUTH AFRICA WHICH WAS DEPOSITED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, FOR PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER.

THIS REVISED SET OF REGULATIONS IMPOSES AN EMBARGO ON EXPORTS AND REEXPORTS OF U.S. ORIGIN COMMODITIES AND UNPUBLISHED TECHNICAL DATA TO, OR FOR USE BY OR FOR MILITARY OR POLICE ENTITIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA.

THESE REVISIONS ARE ISSUED IN ORDER TO FURTHER U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY AND TO SUPPORT U.S. IMPLEMENTATION OF U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS.

FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE REGULATIONS, YOU SHOULD CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, OFFICE OF EXPORT ADMINISTRATION.

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Q: BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE HAVE IMPOSED AN EMBARGO OF THIS SORT, IS IT NOT?

A: AS FAR AS -- BOB, I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANYTHING MORE ON IT THAN THIS. ON PART OF THE HISTORY OF IT I JUST DON'T HAVE ANY INFORMATION.

Q: DO YOU KNOW -- AS I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU ARE SAYING, IT IS APPLIED STRICTLY TO COMMODITIES AND DATA FOR POLICE AND

MILITARY USE?

A: YES.

AND OUR POLICY HAS BEEN NOT TO SELL, TO PROVIDE MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO THE MILITARY OR THE POLICE.

Q: HOW DOES THIS CHANGE THAT, IF IT DOES?

A: I DON'T KNOW THAT IT DOES CHANGE IT. IT MAY BE WE ARE JUST NOW GOING INTO THE SPECIFIC REGULATIONS.

BUT I REALLY WILL HAVE TO REFER YOU TO THE OFFICE OF EXPORT ADMINISTRATION.

Q: KEN, IS THERE A REVIEW UNDER WAY ON THAT -- ON THE GENERAL TRADE WITH SOUTH AFRICA?

A: THE OVERALL ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP WITH SOUTH AFRICA IS STILL UNDER REVIEW. VANCE  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 26 sep 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TEXT, PRESS CONFERENCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 feb 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE042972  
**Document Source:** ADS  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** AF/P:BARUSSELL:ADR  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780074-1099  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t197802120/baaafbwo.tel  
**Line Count:** 2077  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
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**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 769eb5cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN AF  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
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**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 feb 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3475799  
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**Subject:** DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING FEB. 17, 1978  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PEPR, SOPN, US, XA  
**To:** ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS LONDON MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014